



May 4, 2023

The Honorable Lori Houghton, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
Vermont State House
115 State Street, Room 6
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Chair Houghton and Members of the House Committee on Health care,

The Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (NNECOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) strongly support **H. 369**, which would provide coverage of fertility preservation services for Vermont patients with cancer. We encourage the committee to pass the bill forward for a vote on the House floor.

NNECOS is a professional organization whose mission is to facilitate improvements for Vermont physician specialties in both hematology and oncology. NNECOS members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other physicians who specialize in cancer care. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality, equitable cancer care.

NNECOS and ASCO believe that as part of education and informed consent before cancer therapy, health care providers should address the possibility of infertility with both male and female patients treated during their reproductive years. Providers should also be prepared to discuss fertility preservation options and/or refer all potential patients to appropriate reproductive specialists. As such, NNECOS and ASCO advocate for coverage of embryo, oocyte and sperm cryopreservation procedures for an insured patient of reproductive age who has been diagnosed with cancer but has not started cancer treatment (including chemotherapy, biotherapy or radiation therapy treatment) in accordance with [guidelines](#) developed by our affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

We encourage providers to advise patients regarding potential threats to fertility as early as possible in the treatment process to allow for the widest array of options for fertility preservation. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Lori Aubrey at NNECOS at laubrey@nnecos.org or Aaron Segel at ASCO at aaron.segel@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A stylized, circular signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops.

Cocav Rauwerdink, MD
President
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori J. Pierce MD".

Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology